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LITERATURE DEPARTMENT OF THE
 WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N. Y.

One Way to Look at the Membership Question.

"I have a plan to propose."

The voice was wide awake and cheery, and the speaker, brown eyed, rosy cheeked Mrs. Towner, looked with a smile into the faces of four ladies seated in the lecture room of the church. They were, it must be confessed, rather blue and discouraged.

"That is encouraging, let us hear it," this from Mrs. De Motte; she looked very tired, and was very tired, physically and mentally, for she had ironed quite a basketful of clothes, swept the house, and washed the lunch dishes before starting out this April day. She had said to herself as she hurried along through the street, "Any other woman would just stay at home and let this meeting go!" so when only four persons sat there she was more tired than ever.

"Now," said Mrs. Towner, "do not say one word till I get through, or you will throw cold water on my plan."

"Let us appoint ourselves a missionary committee of five, take the church manual and divide among us the names of the women of the church, according to neighborhoods."

"We will have some pledge cards printed like this, to include both Home and Foreign Missions, as our

society is organized for both," and she showed them a slip of paper.

For the year ending March 20, ..., I	
promise to pay to the Woman's Missionary	
Society of 1st Presbyterian Church,	
For the cause of Home Missions, \$.....	
For the cause of Foreign Missions, \$.....	
Payable	{ Monthly
	{ Quarterly
	{ Annually
For the Contingent Fund, . . . \$.....	
Name.....	
Address.....	

"Then we will each one take pledge cards to every woman. Now don't shake your head at me that way, Mrs. Thomas. I know what you want to say: some of them will say at once, 'I am not a member of the Missionary Society,' but let us approach these in a new way; for of course they *are* members of the Missionary Society, if they are members of the church. Ask such a woman if she remembers the questions of the pastor at the time of her reception into the church when he said, 'Do you promise to seek the peace and prosperity of this church and to support its organizations?' That means the Missionary Society,—so she is a member. Now let us ask her if she will be a *contributing member*. If she refuses, all right; we will go to her again next year, and give her the opportunity to—again refuse if she so chooses.

"Each woman of this committee of five will keep in a little book a record of the pledges and answers received from those on her list, giving the pledge cards to the treasurer; then, if any on my list are

delinquent at the end of the quarter, the treasurer will inform *me* and I will be 'a reminder,' each of us following the same plan—no, do not say a word yet—this work must be done *at once!* This is the beginning of the missionary year, and the pledge cards must be filled out and in the hands of our treasurer before the next missionary meeting.

"In making a report of membership to the Presbyterian Society we will count all *contributing members*."

"Of course we must be prayerful and tactful, but when we look at this manual and see the names of one hundred and fifty women, church members, and then look at our treasurer's book and see only thirty-five names as contributing members of the Missionary Society, we must feel that to some this matter has not been presented. Let us pray about it," and with simple earnestness she put the plan before the Lord and asked His help.

You should have seen how differently they looked into each other's eyes after that, and with what a laugh they greeted Mrs. Towner's comical smile as she drew from her hand-bag five little blank books, with pencils tied to them by a real Presbyterian blue ribbon.

The fun was only intensified when they opened the books and found them all beautifully red lined—

NAME.	ADDRESS.	PLEDGE			PAYABLE.		
		Home.	For.	Cont.	Month.	Quar.	Ann'y.

"Well, you had faith that we would try your plan, hadn't you?" said timid Mrs. Warren, who had not yet said one word.

"I believe in having my ammunition ready," was the response. "Now we must explain carefully about this Contingent Fund. It is to cover postage, printing of programs, traveling expenses of delegate to Presbyterian meetings and a certain proportion to the Contingent Fund of the Presbyterian Society; suppose we suggest that every woman give thirty cents a year to the Contingent Fund. Our treasure will then send ten cents to the Foreign and ten cent to the Home Presbyterian Contingent Fund, keeping ten cents for our own society expenses."

This suggestion met with favor and they began with enthusiasm on the manual.

It is enough to say that the plan worked splendidly, and the number of contributing members in that society was greatly increased.

Of course, some refused to have anything to do with the pledge card, but when the year rolled around they were visited again, the committee feeling that a wise sowing of seed yields a sure harvest at some time.

Is this practicable?

Yes, indeed, for it has been tried.

MRS. F. F. MCCREA.